

Message Text

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41

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 EURE-00 OMB-01 CIEP-02 SCCT-01 SY-04 USSS-00

OPR-02 /088 W

----- 053241

P R 061030Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6438

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELFAST

UNCLAS DUBLIN 242

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, EI, UK (NI)

SUBJECT: GOI CABINET GETS IRA DEATH THREAT

1. LEAD STORY IN ALL MORNING PAPERS CONCERNS GOI CONFIRMATION THAT PROVISIONAL IRA HAS THREATENED TO ASSASSINATE TWO CABINET MINISTERS IF ANY OF IRA HUNGER-STRIKERS IN PORTLAOISE PRISON DIES. GOI REMAINS ADAMANT IN REFUSING IRA PRISONER DEMANDS FOR FREE ENTRY OF FOOD PARCELS AND FOR SEGREGATION OF IRA PROVISIONALS IN JAIL.

2. THREATS WERE RELAYED TO THE GOVERNMENT SEPARATELY BY TWO GROUPS OF CLERGY WHO, IRONICALLY, WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN DECEMBER IN RELAYING PROVO MESSAGES ON CHRISTMAS TRUCE TO GOI.

3. PRESS SPECULATES THAT MOST LIKELY TARGETS WOULD BE JUSTICE MINISTER PATRICK COONEY, AND COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER CONOR CRUISE O'BRIEN WHO HAS LONG BEEN OPENLY CRITICAL OF PROVOS.

4. HUNGER STRIKER PATRICK WARD IS SERIOUSLY ILL AND IS REPORTED TO HAVE STATED THAT HE WILL END HIS FAST ONLY IF PRISONERS' DEMANDS ARE MET OR IF IRA COMMANDS HIM TO DO SO. IRA REJECTS GOI CLAIM THAT IT IS LOOKING FOR ANOTHER MARTYR SAYING THAT SHOULD UNCLASSIFIED

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WARD DIE BLAME WOULD REST SQUARELY ON GOI. ALTHOUGH DEATH THREATS

AGAINST GOI OFFICIALS ARE NOTHING NEW THIS ONE HAS AROUSED MORE
CONCERN AMONG SECURITY FORCES THAN BEFORE. SHOULD WARD DIE THE
EMOTIONAL REACTION WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY RUN HIGH WITH VIOLENCE
SURE TO FOLLOW.
REND AHL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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